(iv) Action has been taken against non performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in the existing contracts.

(v) In seven projects, the contracts have been terminated because of poor performance of contractors.

With the above steps, 6222 kms. of National Highways have been completed upto 31st October 2005 on Golden Quadrilateral, North-South and East-West corridors, Port Connectivity and other stretches entrusted to NHAI.

Production/Sale of Khadi Products

†*28. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether production/sale of Khadi products in the country has declines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken or being taken by Government to raise the production/sale of Khadi in the country;

(d) the quantum of production and sale raised due to the steps taken so far and the basis of growth in the future; and

(e) the number of employment opportunities created in the Khadi industry during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) On account of inadequate attention by Khadi institutions/producers to production and sales planning, particularly quality and marketability of product, and worsening of working capital availability due to high levels of unsold stocks and delay in receipt or rebates admissible to them, there was decline in the production and sales of khadi and khadi products during 1998-99 to 2001-02, as detailed below:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	Production value	Sales value
1998-1999	635.89	647.83
1999-2000	551.94	631.79
2000-2001	431.57	570.55
2001-2002	416.69	527.86

(c) To promote the production and sales of Khadi in the country, the following steps have been taken:

(i) Credit at the concessional rate of interest of 4 per cent per annum provided by Banks as per the assessed requirement of the institutions registered with the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)/State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) under the Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) Scheme.

(ii) Larger availability of funds for payment of rebate on sales of Khadi.

(iii) Assistance for improved design and packaging of Khadi garments under the Product Development, Design intervention and Packing (PRODIP) Scheme, implemented by the KVIC.

(iv) Establishment of Rural Industries Service Centres (RISCs) by the KVIC for setting up common facility centres (CFCs).

(v) Establishment of Confederation for Promotion of Khadi and Village Industries (CPKVI) to assist in marketing of Khadi and Village Industry products in India and abroad.

(vi) Assistance to Khadi institutions to participate in international, national and sub-national level exhibitions for improving marketing.

Further, keeping in view the declaration in the National Common Minimum Programme in this regard, the 'Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries' (SFURTI) has been recently approved for implementation in 25 Khadi clusters, for improving productivity and skills of Khadi spinners and weavers, setting up common facility centres (CFCs) to convert khadi fabrics into ready-to-wear khadi products, development of new designs for fabric and garments, market promotion and undertaking activities such as exposure visits to other clusters and institutions, need-based training, etc.

(d) The production and sales of Khadi have increased in the last three years (2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05) as detailed below:

(Rs. crore)

Year	Production value	Sales value
2002-03	443.07	577.63
2003-04	453.50	587.04
2004-05	461.54	617.84

The basis of future growth of production and sale of Khadi consists of the steps summarised in reply to part (c) above.

(e) The number of employment opportunities created in the Khadi industry during last three years is given below:

Year	Employment (lakh persons)
2002-03	8.58
2003-04	8.61
2004-05	8.63

Plan for rural infrastructure

*29. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has unveiled a big plan for rural infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the share of the Orissa State out of this, indicating *inter-alia* the details of infrastructure development that would be taken up in rural areas of the State under the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Finance Minister in his Budget speech for 2005-06 on 28.02.2005 announced Bharat Nirman as a business plan for building rural infrastructure over a period of four years.